

AMD17-057

4/14/08

Bell, Leanne S (DOT)

From: Scholl, James W (DOT)
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2008 2:18 PM
To: Bell, Leanne S (DOT)
Subject: FW: CBJ comments to Draft #17 - STIP
Attachments: 2008-04-11 Hughes-DOT - CBJ STIP Comments.pdf

Please log in this e-mail and attachment. Thanks!

From: Hughes, Andrew N (DOT)
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2008 2:05 PM
To: Scholl, James W (DOT)
Cc: Christensen, Peter D (DOT); Balstad, Liz (DOT); Hawes, David J (DOT); Menzies, Malcolm A (DOT)
Subject: FW: CBJ comments to Draft #17 - STIP

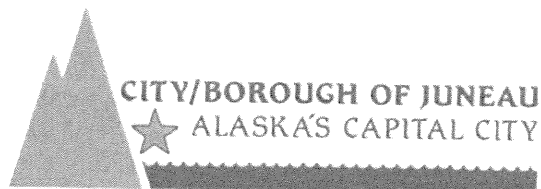
City and Borough of Juneau STIP Amd 17 Comments.

From: Angela Hull [mailto:Angela_Hull@ci.juneau.ak.us]
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2008 1:08 PM
To: Hughes, Andrew N (DOT)
Cc: Roger Healy; Rod_Swope@ci.juneau.ak.us
Subject: CBJ comments to Draft #17 - STIP

Mr. Hughes:

I have attached the scanned subject letter signed by Rod Swope. If you have difficulty with the attachment, please don't hesitate to contact me. The hard copy will follow via USPS.

Angela Hull, Executive Assistant
Office of the Mayor and Manager
City and Borough of Juneau
155 S. Seward Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-5240



OFFICE OF THE MANAGER

Telephone: (907) 586-5240; Fax: (907) 586-5385

Rod_Swope@ci.juneau.ak.us

April 11, 2008

Andy Hughes, Planning Chief - Southeast Region
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
6860 Glacier Highway, MS 2506
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2506

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Following are comments from the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) in regard to Draft Amendment #17 to the 2006-2009 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP):

Proposed Local Projects in Draft Amendment #17

- ◆ The CBJ appreciates the continued design, right-of-way, and construction funding for Juneau area projects. We are particularly supportive of the renewed funding for the Juneau Bridge Repair and Upgrade project (Need ID 18609). This project will fund needed repairs to the Basin Road Trestle that now has restricted traffic loads imposed upon it. The reduced traffic loading is impeding commerce. The CBJ will gladly provide the required match for this earmark project, and hope that other Alaskan communities follow suit.
- ◆ The CBJ continues to support continued design and construction efforts for reconstruction of Glacier Highway – Amalga Harbor to Bessie Creek (Need ID's 18363 and 18362). Transportation to and from the Kensington Mine will benefit from these projects, and the CBJ urges expeditious completion.
- ◆ The CBJ supports the Alaska Department of Transportation's (ADOT) environmental, right-of-way, design, and construction efforts to replace Brotherhood Bridge (Need ID 2141). This bridge and surrounding approach lanes continue to be a constriction to traffic movements and, in turn, are safety concerns for Juneau's drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
- ◆ The CBJ continues to support ADOT's efforts to improve Juneau's Access (Need ID 19214) to the road system and have addressed additional funding in a separate letter to the Juneau delegation.
- ◆ The CBJ appreciates ADOT's continued support for Transit Bus Acquisition and Transit Center (Need ID 19074).

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Allocation

The CBJ continues to urge ADOT to consider MPO allocations in light of the geography and rural nature of the non-MPO communities, and to recognize that while MPO's may have multiple opportunities to secure federal and state transportation project funding for their local road systems, much of the rest of the state is entirely reliant on their own limited financial resources to construct and reconstruct local roadways.

Capital Budget

While the below projects are not in the STIP, the CBJ is very supportive of the transportation improvements included in the current capital bill (SB221) including:

- Gastineau Channel Crossing - \$2.6M
- The CBJ greatly appreciates ADOT's support of this project. This is the CBJ's #1 transportation priority which is essential for support of West Douglas development.
- Glacier Highway – Amalga to Eagle Beach - \$10M
- Glacier Highway Roundabouts and Sidewalks – Fritz Cove to Harbor Drive - \$5M
- Recommend extension of this project to include pedestrian facilities along Back Loop Road from UAS path to Harbor Drive.
- Thane Road Reconstruction - \$3.9M
- Juneau Transit Center - \$750K

CBJ Priority Transportation and Safety Needs

The CBJ supports the following projects and encourages ADOT to include these projects in the STIP:

Glacier Highway - Brotherhood Bridge to Fritz Cove Road – Vehicle/Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety and Lighting Improvements – Estimated Cost - \$2.5M.

This section of Glacier Highway has an AADT ~ 10,000 to 13,000 on average and is the critical connection between the Auke Bay area (University of Alaska Southeast, Auke Bay Ferry Terminal, and businesses and transportation links to the north) and the central residential and commercial areas of Juneau – the Mendenhall Valley. No separated pedestrian/bicycle facilities or lighting exists on this hilly and busy section of roadway. This highway section is a critical safety issue that will continue to get worse when zoning densities increase along this section of highway with the installation of sewer infrastructure. The CBJ is very interested in cooperating on construction of a separated path in conjunction with the construction of sewer infrastructure similar to Sitka's and ADOT cooperation on Sawmill Creek Road. Preliminary plans call for a sewer line on the north side of Glacier Highway from Sherwood Lane to Fritz Cove Road. This would be an ideal location for the separated path, and would increase safety along this critical section of the National Highway System route.

Bus Shelters - \$250K

As fuel prices increase, state and local transportation planners need to support transit operations to the maximum extent possible. These monies will continue to provide needed amenities to Capital Transit.

Lemon Road – Davis Avenue to Lemon Creek Correctional Center - \$1.8M.

This road is the sole access to the State-owned Lemon Creek Correctional Center. The recommended improvements include new pavement, curb and gutter, lighting, and sidewalk(s). The CBJ would consider a 50/50 funding agreement on this project.

Upper Lemon Creek Access - \$10M.

Upper Lemon Creek continues to be the CBJ's and State's prime location for rock and gravel resources. A new route for truck traffic is needed for trucks to access Glacier Highway. The CBJ initiated a transportation study of the area that identified several feasible access options. The CBJ would consider a 50/50 funding agreement on this mutually beneficial project.

Trail (TRAAK) and Safety Improvements.

The CBJ encourages the inclusion of the following trail transportation projects. Many of Juneau's trails are historic mining roads and access to Alaska's earliest industrial developments. The CBJ is actively pursuing grant opportunities from other agencies to supplement funding for the critical maintenance of these historic access routes. Inclusion of these trail priorities in the STIP, even in small amounts, would increase CBJ's chances of receiving funding from other transportation programs intended for trails. Please include the following projects in the STIP.

- Auke Lake Trail
A portion of this trail will function as the much needed pedestrian/bicycle connection between Auke Bay and the Mendenhall Valley
- Treadwell Ditch – Douglas to North Douglas Highway
- Treadwell Mine Historic Trail
- Outer Point Trail – Douglas Island
- Montana Creek Trail
- Switzer/Marriot Trail

CBJ appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft STIP. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Roger Healy, Engineering Director.

Sincerely,



Rod Swope
City Manager

cc: Public Works and Facilities Committee
Roger Healy, Engineering Director